

**WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS 2025
9–15 October 2025, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

**Proposed amendments to Article 54 of the Rules of Procedure
of the World Conservation Congress
Criteria for accepting motions**

Proposed text of Congress Decision

Noting with appreciation the work of the 2021–2025 IUCN Council in response to a request from the 2021 Members' Assembly;

Acknowledging the concerns of IUCN Members and work of the Council, Secretariat and Motions Working Group to address those concerns during the motions process prior to and during the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress;

Recognising that the motions process can benefit from further review and reforms that build upon the lessons learned over the past decade, including in particular the experiences of this first fully hybrid Congress;

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:
REQUESTS the IUCN Council to:

1. establish a participatory process involving Members to review the Rules of Procedure related to the motions process, including in particular Rule 54, taking into account the progress made by the 2021–2025 IUCN Council and the Contact Group established at this Congress as captured in the annex;
2. prioritise this participatory process so that it takes place as soon as possible during the intersessional period and organise online discussions with Members on the proposals for revisions to the Rules of Procedures related to motions; and
3. organise an electronic vote on the proposals for amendments resulting from the above-mentioned participatory process with the aim of ensuring that the resulting amendments to the Rules of Procedure are applicable to the motions process during the preparation and conduct of the next IUCN World Conservation Congress.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE AMENDMENTS CONTAINED IN ANNEX 1 ARE NOT FOR DECISION, BUT PROVIDE THE FUTURE COUNCIL WITH INPUT FROM THE PROGRESS THE CONGRESS CONTACT GROUPS ACHIEVED.

Progress by the Contact Group on Motion B

Summary of Process on Amendments to Rule 54

In response to a request made by the Members' Assembly during the 2021 World Conservation Congress, the 2021–2025 Council established a Task Force (TF) on amendment of the motions process which highlighted that the root cause for many of the complaints by IUCN Members is the potential for subjectivity and lack of clarity or potential different interpretations of the motion criteria as outlined in Rule 54. The TF proposed amendments to Rule 54 to enhance the clarity of the criteria and reduce the potential for subjectivity in interpretation, which the Council submitted to the World Congress as Motion B.

Motion B was discussed in three sessions of a contact group (CG) (on 11, 13 and 14 October 2025). Participants in the CG reinforced the need to amend Rule 54 to enhance the clarity of the criteria and reduce the potential for subjective interpretation, in particular those in section (a) related to content, and they made significant progress achieving consensus on many of the proposed amendments.

Some participants suggested an alternative motion to request the Council to undertake a participatory review of the motions process. The time available to the CG was not sufficient to reach consensus on all the criteria, and the participants also recognise that this Rule is particularly important to all IUCN Members. Participants agreed that the 2025 Congress should request the IUCN Council to continue the work on improving the motions process, including the amendment of Rule 54, taking into account the work of the 2021–2025 Council and the progress made by the Contact Group. The incoming IUCN Council should undertake such work through a consultative process involving IUCN Members, organise online discussions with Members on the proposals for revisions to the Rules of Procedure, and organise an electronic ballot on these proposals intersessionally with the aim of ensuring that the suggested changes are applicable during the preparation of the next World Conservation Congress.

The text below outlines the progress made by the Contact Group in the discussion of Rule 54.

Progress by Contact Group on Proposed amendments to Rule 54

Motions shall be accepted only upon determination by the Motions Working Group or the Resolutions Committee that they are consistent with the purpose of motions as defined in Rule 48*bis* and meet **all** the following requirements:

(a) related to content:

- i. Propose or modify IUCN's general policy, influence the policies and actions of third parties, or address the governance of IUCN, subject to the full application of Rule 51;

(Rationale: to ensure coherence with Rule 48 and 48bis. Note: what constitutes IUCN policy may need to be defined.)

- ii. Actions called for in the motion, are clear, specific, and feasible;

(Rationale: should not only be limited to contributions from Members, but all actions called for by the Motion.)

- iii. Provides clear justification that is supported, where possible, by relevant facts or references

(Rationale: technically sound and coherent is open to subjectivity.)

- iv. Be precise in what they aim to achieve;

~~v. Propose aspirational goals that are reasonable;~~

(Rationale: these are now included in ii.)

vi. Do not only repeat the content of Resolutions and Recommendations previously adopted;
and

(Rationale: merely is more open to interpretation and subjectivity.)

vii. When focusing on local, national or regional issues, state, with the proponent providing evidence at the moment of submission, that (1) the matter covered by the motion has been engaged at local, national and/or regional instances and that the desired result has not been achieved; and (2) the Members and relevant Commission members as well as other stakeholders in the geographic area in question have been consulted; and

Some Contact Group participants expressed concerns that the requirements in vii are too onerous and difficult for Members to comply with and may not be feasible for some motions. These requirements should be only where feasible. The following amendment was tabled:

[54(a)vii: "When submitting motions focused on local, national or regional issues, that the proponent provide, to the extent practicable given the circumstances, a brief outline of the previous discussions of the issue(s) amongst those in the geographic area, whether they have worked with IUCN elements previously and whether there has been discussion of suitable solutions."]

However, participants in the Contact Group on 13 October could not come to an agreement on the need to change this point, nor on amendment language given time constraints.

(b) related to process and format:

viii. Be submitted before the deadline established in Rule 49;

ix. Be proposed and co-sponsored by Members eligible to vote, in accordance with Rules 49 or 49bis;

~~x. Can either be a recommendation or resolution and should not contain actions related to both IUCN and third parties;~~

~~*(Rationale: experience from appeals show that when a motion contains actions directed to both IUCN and third parties it can be confusing. This amendment would enhance alignment with Rule 48.)*~~

~~xi. The proponent specifies a) which of their Members and/or components of IUCN or third parties, which the motion calls upon to undertake action have been consulted or have collaborated in the development of the motion, b) which if Members or components of IUCN have been consulted with a view to identify solutions that might address the underlying issues, and c) where possible, an estimate of the resources or capacity required to implement the motion, any potential contributions which proponents and co-sponsors intent to make towards its implementation and an indication of potential sources of funding that could support the implementation of the motion;~~

(Rationale: Consultation is encouraged but not a requirement, proponents and co-sponsors do not own a motion, once adopted a motion is of the entire Union.)

xii. For motions concerning issues arising in a State or States outside the State or Region of the proponent, be co-sponsored by at least one IUCN Member from the Region with which the motion is concerned in accordance with Rule 49bis; and

xiii. Use the user-friendly template to be approved by Council.